

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

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Whole No. 334



DIME NOVEL SKETCHES #14

RED RAVEN

Published by Winner Library Co. (Street & Smith). 37 issues, January 17, 1905, to September 23, 1905. Bright colored covers, 8x11 inches, 32 pages. Reprinted stories from the English Red Rover Library and some new stories. The series was followed by Paul Jones Weekly.

The Pseudonyms of Edward S. Ellis

By Denis R. Rogers

Part V — Chronological Survey and Appendix

Since the publication of Part I of this article it occurred to me that a brief chronological survey of the many Ellis pen names might be appreciated by "Round-Up" readers. Your long-suffering editor agreed and so the survey has been coupled with the revised appendix (showing all the names by categories) to form Part V.

For the purpose of the survey it seemed to me that only pen names used for full length stories should be discussed. Furthermore the survey ignores all but proven or really likely Ellis pen names and the aim has been to establish a clear picture by weeding out reprints.

The first use of a pen name for an Ellis story was in June 1862, with Nick Wilson in Street & Smith's "The New York Weekly." Emerson Rodman (March 1865) and Capt. R. M. Hawthorne (July 1866) soon followed for the same publisher. Capt. R. M. Hawthorne was used several times afterwards for other publishers.

In November 1863 Capt. Latham C. Carleton was used to start off the Irwin P. Beadle-George Munro venture. This pseudonym was used frequently throughout the 14 years of Munro's Ten Cent Novels. It was resurrected many years later for oth-

er publishers. During his early years as a publisher Munro had to rely on a few authors only, the chief of whom was Ellis. Possibly the circumstantial pen names, Dr. Longbow (July 1864), Nicodemus Wildfire (August 1864), An Old Hunter (May 1867), Captain Maxwell (September 1867), One Who Has Slept on the Prairie (January 1868), A. D. H. (Col. A. D. Hynes; October 1869), Du Val (March 1870) and Capt. Crabbe (November 1871) were used by Ellis to reduce the number of Carleton stories in the series. They flow chronologically and end about the time that Munro expanded the number of his living writers. It must be said, however, that internal evidence is against Ellis authorship of the three Capt. Crabbe tales. With the introduction of "The New York Fireside Companion" two further Ellis pen names were used for Munro, namely Our New Contributor (July 1869) and Mahlon A. Brown (November 1870).

For the original Beadle firm Ellis used very few new pen names. George Henry Prentice (November 1864) and Capt. Hamilton Holmes (January 1866) may have been his, although we do not know for sure that Beadle

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published the early American Tales, in which Hamilton Holmes was used. The anonymity of that series could be deemed to explain the use of pen names for Ellis contributions.

Mystery surrounds Irwin P. Beadle's second publishing venture (see "The House of Beadle & Adams, Vol. I, Pages 140-147). In this series first appeared Boynton K. Belknap, M.D. (September 1866), Seelin Robins (December 1866), Billex Muller (December 1867), Capt. H. R. Millbank (July 1868) and Lieut. J. H. Randolph (December 1868). Also in this period there appeared a lone Ellis story by Boynton Randolph, M.D. ("The Flower of the Forest") under the imprint of The American News Company, who were publishers' agents.

The 48 numbers of the American Novels were split, so far as Professor Johannsen was able to ascertain from the limited number of novels available for study, roughly 32, 16 between Irwin P. Beadle's American Novels and Irwin's American Novels on the one hand and plain American Novels (American Novel Publishing Company) on the other hand. In the first 32 numbers, ignoring No. 17 as an unlikely Ellis item, there are 9 tales by Ellis: in the final 16 numbers, ignoring No. 35 as an unlikely Ellis item, there are no less than 13 Ellis tales.

Of the 9 titles in the Irwin days, at least 4 are merely reprints, slightly edited in some instances, of serials which appeared earlier in "The New York Weekly." Of the 13 titles in the final phase (about 16 months) only 4 are reprints of serials. If, as seems possible, Starr's American Novels No. 19 was acquired by Beadle & Adams as an unpublished manuscript, along with the plates and remainders of the American Novels, Ellis wrote 10 original stories for the American Novel Publishing Company.

That would have been well within Ellis' capacity, but I think the disproportion between original tales for Irwin P. Beadle and Irwin & Company on the one hand and for The

American Novel Publishing Company on the other hand is significant. Whoever comprised the American Novel Publishing Company evidently appealed more to Ellis than did the earlier publishers of the American Novels.

In his memoirs Ellis' only son, Wilmot Edward (born 14 September 1867), states that he was named after Wilmot Chapman, an esteemed friend of his father.

It occurs to me that Wilmot Chapman may have been the Chapman of Chapman & Company, New York, publishers of The Sunny Side Series. Number 3 of that short lived series was "The Haunted Wood. A Legend of the Mohawk in 1778" by Edward S. Ellis, which was published in December 1866. In August 1867 the remainders of this tale appeared as remainders of other numbers of The No. 33 of the American Novels. The Sunny Side Series also appeared in the American Novels.

From this I can't help wondering whether Chapman and, perhaps, Ellis himself had sizeable interests in the American Novel Publishing Company. That would provide a logical explanation of Ellis' increased output for the series during its final 16 numbers. It would also explain the use of so many new Ellis pen names.

The previous six paragraphs are really a digression from my subject, but I could not resist the temptation to put forward my theory. Needless to add it is fine spun and, frankly, I don't advance it very seriously. If correct, however, it suggests that the Fireside Series may have been published by Chapman.

With the end of the American Novels Ellis wrote more frequently for Beadle & Adams and we find Charles E. La Salle (March 1870), the famous Capt. J. F. C. ("Bruin") Adams (January 1871) and Lieut. Ned Hunter (March 1872) first appearing. La Salle and "Bruin" Adams were used for publications bearing the Beadle imprint, but Ned Hunter only for the Frank Starr "red-herring" venture. It seems likely that Edwin Emerson

(May 1871) was also used by Ellis specially for Frank Starr novels and Ralph Ringwood (July 1871) may also have been his nom de plume. Ralph Ringwood was also used for many sketches in the Beadle story papers, the first appearing in August 1870.

Ellis' "exclusive" contract with Davis & Elverson is well known, but it appears that only four pen names were used. That was undoubtedly because the bulk of his 40 odd serials for "Saturday Night" were published under his own name. The four pen names were Geoffrey Randolph (June 1869), A U. S. Detective (September 1874), Frank Faulkner (January 1878) and E. A. St. Mox (January 1880), and Lucie St. Deane (January 1872) was almost certainly another Ellis nom de plume.

The introduction of E. A. St. Mox may have been because a U. S. Detective had proved too general for protection. Geoffrey Randolph, E. A. St. Mox and Frank Faulkner were used again later for other periodicals, including publishers of mail order papers.

Captain Tom (May 1873), used for a few juvenile serials in "Saturday Night," has been attributed to Ellis, but the evidence is adverse.

The only other publisher for whom Ellis wrote extensively before his cloth book days was Frank Leslie. In "Frank Leslie's Boys' & Girls' Weekly," Lt. R. H. Jayne, the best known of all Ellis' pseudonyms, first appeared (September 1874). Oswald A. Gwynne (September 1876) and a variation, Oscar A. Gwynne (July 1877) followed. The first P. T. Barnum story probably written by Ellis, "Lion Jack," was serialized in "Frank Leslie's Boys' & Girls' Weekly" (June 1876). Other Barnum juveniles by Ellis were later published by Frank Munsey and Norman Munro. Finally came Henry R. Brisbane (June 1879).

Ellis wrote little for Street and Smith after signing up with Davis & Elverson in 1868, apart from a period when he was contributing to "Good News" (1890 to 1894). No new pen names were used during that

spell, but mention must be made of two names (not fully proven Ellis pen names) used briefly. A railway serial by Chester F. Baird ("The New York Weekly," March 1878) may have been Ellis' work. Edwin S. Deane was applied to three detective stories in 1889 and 1890, the first appearing in November 1889 (Log Cabin Library). It should be noted, however, that Chester F. Baird was first used for sketches in Davis & Elverson's "Saturday Night" (May 1877 to November 1879) and Edwin S. Deane for a few sketches in "Beadle's Weekly" from April 1883 onwards.

From 1883 Ellis devoted most of his time to writing cloth books, mainly under his true name. Consequently there are only eight new pen names to record between then and his death in June 1916.

In December 1882 Rollo Robins Jr. was used for Frank Munsey's "Golden Argosy" and September 1886 Robin Playfellow appeared in the little known "Dawn of Day" (William T. Ockford of Detroit).

The name, Howard M. Boynton, which was applied to five detective stories in Beadle's Boys' Library of Sport, Story and Adventures between June 1889 and March 1890, appeals to me as a likely Ellis pen name, although the circumstantial evidence is far from strong.

When Ellis became editor of "The Boys' Holiday" he wrote many of the stories himself, so it is not surprising to find three new pen names, J. G. Bethune, M.D. (March 1890), Egbert S. Thomas (July 1890) and Thomas A. C. Alcott (September 1890). J. G. Bethune was often used thereafter for detective tales.

In 1897 Ellis signed a contract to write a number of historical Indian tales for E. P. Dutton of New York. At that time his chief publisher was Henry T. Coates of Philadelphia, so the pen name, Colonel H. R. Gordon, had to be employed for the Dutton tales.

Finally, in November 1904, Henry T. Coates experimented briefly with

Seward D. Lisle, which is an anagram
of Edward S. Ellis.

Year and Month	Pseudonym and Name of First Publisher
June 1862	Nick Wilson (Street & Smith)
November 1863	Capt. Latham C. Carleton (George Munro)
July 1864	[Dr. Longbow] (George Munro)
August 1864	[Nicodemus Wildfire] (George Munro)
November 1864	[George Henry Prentice] (Beadle & Co.)
March 1865	Emerson Rodman (Street & Smith)
January 1866	[Capt. Hamilton Holmes] [Beadle & Co.]
July 1866	Capt. R. M. Hawthorne (Street & Smith)
September 1866	Boynton K. Belknap, M.D. (Irwin & Co.)
December 1866	Seelin Robins (Irwin & Co.)
December 1866	Boynton Randolph, M.D. [Chapman & Co.]
May 1867	[An Old Hunter] (George Munro)
September 1867	[Captain Maxwell] (George Munro)
December 1867	Billex Muller (American Novel Publishing Co.)
January 1868	[One Who Has Slept on the Prairie] (George Munro)
March 1868	[A Favorite Author] (George Munro)
July 1868	Capt. H. R. Millbank (American Novel Pub. Co.)
December 1868	Lt. J. H. Randolph (American Novel Pub. Co.)
June 1869	Geoffrey Randolph (Davis & Elverson)
July 1869	Our New Contributor (George Munro)
October 1869	[A. D. H.—Col. A. D. Hynes] (George Munro)
March 1870	[Du Vall] (George Munro)
March 1870	Charles E. LaSalle (Beadle & Co.)
[November 1870]	Mahlon A. Brown (George Munro)
January 1871	[Ralph Ringwood] (Frank Starr)
(First used for a sketch in "Saturday Journal"—August 1870)	
January 1871	Capt. J. F. C. ("Bruin") Adams (Beadle & Adams)
May 1871	[Edwin Emerson] (Frank Starr)
November 1871	[Captain Crabbel] (George Munro)
January 1872	[Lucie St. Deanel] (Davis & Elverson)
March 1872	Lt. Ned Hunter (Frank Starr & Co.)
September 1874	A U. S. Detective (Davis & Elverson)
September 1874	Lt. R. H. Jayne (Frank Leslie)
June 1876	[P. T. Barnum] (Frank Leslie)
September 1876	Oswald A. Gwynne (Frank Leslie)
July 1877	Oscar A. Gwynne (Frank Leslie)
January 1878	Frank Faulkner (Davis & Elverson)
March 1878	[Chester F. Baird] (Street & Smith)
(First used for a sketch in "Saturday Night"—May 1877)	
June 1879	Henry R. Brisbane (Frank Leslie)
April 1880	E. A. St. Mox (Davis & Elverson)
December 1882	Rollo Robins, Jr. (Frank Munsey)
September 1886	Robin Playfellow (William T. Ockford)
June 1889	[Howard M. Boynton] (Beadle & Adams)
(First used for a sketch in "The Argosy"—May 1889)	
November 1889	[Edwin S. Deanel] (Street & Smith)
(First used for a sketch in "Beadle's Weekly"—April 1883)	
March 1890	J. G. Bethune, M.D. (Holiday Publishing Co.)
July 1890	Egbert S. Thomas (Holiday Publishing Co.)
September 1890	Thomas A. C. Alcott (Holiday Publishing Co.)
[October] 1897	Col. H. R. Gordon (E. P. Dutton)
[November] 1904	Seward D. Lisle (Henry T. Coates & Co.)

Appendix

For the convenience of readers the one hundred and twenty-seven names discussed in this and the previous article, plus six names to be discussed in a postscript, are listed below alphabetically within their classifications, which are defined.

(1) **PROVEN PSEUDONYMS:** (i.e. fully proven as belonging to Ellis). Captain "Bruin" Adams, Captain J. F. C. Adams, Boynton Belknap, M.D., J. G. Bethune, J. H. Bethune, Henry R. Brisbane, Mahlon A. Brown, Captain Latham C. Carleton, The Ex-Reporter, Frank Faulkner, Colonel H. R. Gordon, Oscar A. Gwynne, Oswald A. Gwynne, Captain R. M. Hawthorne, Lieutenant Ned Hunter, Lieutenant R. H. Jayne, Charles E. LaSalle, George E. LaSalle, Seward D. Lisle, Captain H. R. Millbank, Billex Muller, An Old Hunter ("Young Ireland"), Our New Contributor ("New York Fireside Companion"), Robin Playfellow, Boynton Randolph M.D., Geoffrey Randolph, Lieutenant J. H. Randolph, Rollo Robins Jr., Seelin Robins, Emerson Rodman, E. A. St. Mox, Egbert S. Thomas, A U. S. Detective ("Saturday Night" and "The Hearthstone"), Nick Wilson. (34).

(2). **PROBABLE PSEUDONYMS:** (i.e. supported by convincing evidence). Thomas A. C. Alcott, P. T. Barnum (six juveniles only, first appearing in "Frank Leslie's Boys' & Girls' Weekly" (3), "Golden Argosy" (1), "New York Family Story Paper" (1) and "Golden Hours" (1)), Captain Latham T. Carleton, Gerald A. Gwynne and Lucie St. Deane. (5).

(3). **POSSIBLE PSEUDONYMS:** (i.e. supported by debateable evidence). Frank Alden, Chester F. Baird, Mattie M. Boteler, Major Henry Boulton, Beverly Brandon, William H. Budd, Captain E. L. Burton, George R. Bushnell, Captain Crabbe, Richard Courtney, Russell Cummings, Edwin S. Deane, Frank Felton, Clark W. Goldthwait, A Favorite Author, F. G. Harland, Bert Harris, Rev. T. De Haven, William J. Havens, Guy Herbert, A. F. Hill, Gerald G. Honoye, T. R. Hulme, Captain Charles M. Kemp, Paul Lindon, Doctor Longbow, John J. Mackart, Frank D. McSpedon, A. F. Martin, Ralph Martin, Captain Maxwell, Mark Middleton, Ralph Morgan, A. (Alfred) P. Morton, Leonard Morton, B. M. Neill, A New York Detective ("Young Ireland"), An Officer of the U. S. Secret Service ("Saturday Night" and "The Hearthstone"), An Old Hunter (George Munro), One Who Has Slept on the Prairie, Adelaide Anne Proctor, Mary (C.) Reed, D. L. Reid, John Rodgers, Percy B. Stafford, Frank Wallace, Joesph Warren, Nicodemus Wildfire, R. G. Williams. (49).

(4). **IMPROBABLE PSEUDONYMS:** (i.e. which, on the evidence available, appear unlikely to have been Ellis nom de plume). Captain C. B. Ashley, Colin Barker, Augustin Daly, Oscar Ellis, Warne Ellis, Captain George Grenville, U.S.A., Lieutenant Hollis Hayne, Col. Harry Hazelton/Hazeltine, Herrick Johnstone, L. Augustus Jones, Captain LeClair, Louis Legrand, M.D., Henry J. Thomas, Mrs. Henry J. Thomas, Captain Tom, Colonel Tom Travis, Charles Wentworth. (17).

(5). **CIRCUMSTANTIAL PSEUDONYMS:** (i.e. favored by circumstantial evidence only). Howard M. Boynton, Du Val, Edwin Emerson, E. S. E., Fred F. Foster, Captain Hamilton Holmes, Colonel A. D. Hynes, George Henry Prentice, Ralph Ringwood, Edward Sylvester. (10).

(6). **CONJECTURAL PSEUDONYM:** (i.e. on which no evidence has been located). Captain Vassour. (1).

(7). **DISPROVEN PSEUDONYMS:** (i.e. verified as not being pen names of Ellis). Lieutenant Henry L. Boone, Major Lewis W. Garson, Frank H. Converse, George H. Coomer, Edward Ellis, Fannie Fairie, Ad. H. Gibson, William Murray Graydon, Adelbert Gumore, Corporal Morris Hoyne, Captain Marcy Hunter, U.S.A., Lieutenant Keene, U.S.A., Major Ashley Lawrence, Frank L. Stanton, Lieutenant Alfred B. Thorne, Edward S. Van Zile, Captain Wheeler, U.S.A. (17).

A LETTER FROM MR. LEITHEAD

Dear Eddie:

In his "Report on Robert Emmett Owen," Adimari says that "Owen, according to Stanley Pachon did not illustrate them (the Motor Stories for Street & Smith) and that "all Owen illustrations are signed by R. Emmett Owen with year painted." Well, if you have any of the Motor Stories look at the covers and you'll see yourself that the same artist who did the Brave and Bold cover reproduced on this June issue of DNR also did all or most of the Motor Stories covers. Even though the name of Owen doesn't appear, it was probably obliterated, as Street & Smith had a habit of keeping the identities of their writers and artists unknown. Owen had a particular style and drawing line to his sketches as does every artist.

I can add a few Owen illustrations for the Buffalo Bill Stories to the list you give: #490, 537, 544, 545, 546, 547. Owen also did some Nick Carter Weekly covers, one or two Diamond Dick, Jrs., and some frontispiece half-tone illustrations for Boys of Liberty Library (S. & S.) in the hard-cover edition published by David McKay. And, of course, Tip Tops you mention, and maybe others where the signature was obliterated.

NEWSY NEWS

Ralph F. Cummings
Fisherville, Mass.

Albert W. Sterling; R.F.D. 1, Barrington Rd., Ilion, N. Y., is still working on his collection of boys adventure books. Any kind of adventure tale, that is, providing he doesn't have it.

Ivan Wilson, Mechanicsburg, Ill., would like to get a copy of "White Horse Fred," in either cloth or paper bound. He also wants the "Sportman's Club." Both are by Harry Castlemon.

Clyde Wakefield was down yesterday afternoon, and we did some trading.

A. W. Egerton of Houston 7, Texas has been sick nearly all winter, but is coming around, slowly as a fellow says. Hope he can get around even more quickly, as it's no fun to be sick. B. D. Mallory and Clarence Orser haven't felt any too good either and oh boy, that makes me think, Clarence Orser has a lot of fine novels and weeklies he wants to sell, also fine sets too.

Peter Scallo of Norwood, Mass., says novel collecting is fun. It sure is Pete, and it helps us all to keep up the good things in life.

Remember when Denis Rogers was up in Canada, and he'd drop in on us at times a looking for Ellis material, and when he got an item he didn't have, it was just like finding a gold mine. We all get the very same feeling when we find one of our much needed wants. Denis is still after Ellis material, pictures, letters, etc.

Just came across a letter I had received from Ralph F. Adimari, Oct. 9th, 1924, also George Sahr, March 26, 1923, Bob Frye, March 12, 1925, J. Edward Leithead, Dec. 12, 1926, Bob Smeltzer, 1922. Heap long time.

ERRATA

Sam Moskowitz writes in to note that Lu Senarens died on December 28, 1939, not in 1927 as stated in the May 15, 1960 issue of the Round-Up.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

- 136. Robert G. Troetschel, 1519 Alton St., Pittsburgh 16, Pa. (New Add.)
- 161. Tom Moriarty, 179-24 149th Rd., Springfield Gardens 13, N. Y. (New Address)
- 167. Miss Esther J. Ford, Street & Smith Pub., Inc., 575 Madison Ave., New York 22, N. Y. (New address)
- 138. Daniel A. Driscoll, 346 Montgomery St., Brooklyn 25, N. Y. (New Add.)
- 135. Howard B. Silsbee, 47 Bross Place, Irvington 11, N. J. (New Address)

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